

STORM REPORT

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Volume 11

June 2002

Important Reminder

Annual Reports Due July 1st

Storm Water Annual Reports for the 2001-2002 reporting year for the General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit (General Permit) are due on July 1st. Reports must be submitted to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Facility operators can prepare their Annual Report using the form that the State Board provides. If you do not already have a form, it can be downloaded from the Regional Board Storm Water webpage at the following address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/programs/Stormwater/sw_industrial.html.

Your Annual Report should summarize and document what you have done over the year to comply with the General Permit requirements. Specifically, your Annual Report must contain the following elements (refer to Section B.14 of the General Permit for more details):

- 1) A summary of visual observations and sampling results

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Tip A Pail, Go To Jail

By Joe Baiocco as told to Melinda Barrett

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*County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works,
Environmental Programs Division*

The Industrial Waste/Underground Tank Section of Environmental Programs Division doesn't mess around when it comes to handling reports of illegal dumping into the storm drain system. In fact, Joe Baiocco, Supervising Waste Control Engineering Inspector and head of the Industrial Waste Field Inspection Unit was recently invited to give a presentation to a large group of his industrial and hazardous waste professional peers at the California Water Environment Association's 29th Annual Conference, to discuss a recent successful example of their work.

Joe's presentation was a dramatic retelling of the investigation, gathering of evidence, surveillance, collaboration with law enforcement agencies, and eventual arrest of a mobile oil change service provider who used the flood control channel to get rid of his waste oil. Joe provided an overview of the situation, showed examples and photographs of the evidence collected, detailed the painstaking process of building a legal case, and even provided a videotape segment showing the actual apprehension of the suspect.

*...eventual arrest of a mobile oil change
service provider who used the flood control
channel to get rid of his waste oil.*

The case began with DPW Flood Maintenance crews reporting an oil sheen in Puente Creek. Through a combination of confined space investigations and inspection of underground laterals and tributary properties, Robert Ozman and Stan Brown, along with the Underground Crew from Longden Yard were able to pinpoint a 300+ unit apartment

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- 2) An evaluation of the visual observation and sampling & analysis results
- 3) Laboratory reports
- 4) Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation Report
- 5) An explanation of why a facility did not implement any activities required by the General Permit (if not already included in the Evaluation Report), and
- 6) Records of any exemptions (see Section B.13.i.)

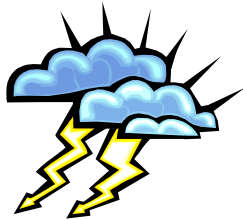
Storm Water Staff will review and evaluate the Annual Reports for compliance with sampling and visual observation requirements from the General Permit.

Don't forget that failure to submit an Annual Report is a major violation and will be assessed with a minimum penalty of \$1,000 per violation (pursuant to Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Chapter 5.9). Also, problems with the content and completeness of your Annual Report can prompt a site investigation as well as a Notice of Violation, so be sure you include all the required and valid information.

An update of recent enforcement actions the Regional Board has taken due to non-submittal of Annual Reports is on page five.

If you have questions regarding the filing of your Annual Report, please refer call Sumaira Noreen at 213-620-6363. ❖

Frequently Asked Questions



Annual Report Form/Filing



Q: *What should I do if I did not receive my blank 2001-2002 Annual Report Form?*

A: You may download the document from our website at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/programs/Stormwater/sw_industrial.html. If you did not receive an Annual Report in the mail, your mailing address in our records may be incorrect, please see: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/industrial.html> and look under "List of Permittees" to verify your address. If your

address is not correct, download and complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) form. Be sure to check the "change of information" box, and send the form to State Board.

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attn: Storm Water Permit Unit
P.O. Box 1977
Sacramento, CA 95812-1977 ✍

Q: *Do I still need to file a 2001-2002 Annual Report even if I have filed a Notice of Termination during the 2001-2002 permit year?*

A: Yes, you must submit a 2001-2002 Annual Report for anytime that your facility was in operation after July 1, 2001, or you will be in violation and subject to penalties. The Annual Report should be sent in at the same time as the Notice of Termination. ✍

Annual Report Content



Q: *Who is authorized to sign storm water documents?*

A: All reports, certifications, or other information required by the Permit or requested by this office must be signed by an authorized person (see Permit Section C.9). This includes (but is not limited to) Notice of Intent, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, Annual Report, Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation and Notice of Termination. Any person signing such documents thereby makes a certification under penalty of law (see Permit Section C.10.). ✍

Q: *Is lack of rain an acceptable excuse for not sampling?*

A: Yes, if you have valid documentation. We keep rain logs and have access to rain gauge information. To be sure that you don't miss an incoming storm, check the weather forecast, and have your sampling equipment ready. For weather information online, please visit: www.weather.com. ✍

Q: *Do I need to submit a copy of my laboratory report to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board)?*

A: Yes. The following must be provided for each sample collected:

- ✓ Date and time of sample collection.
- ✓ Name and title of sampler.
- ✓ Parameters tested.
- ✓ Name of analytical testing laboratory.
- ✓ Discharge location identification.
- ✓ Testing results.
- ✓ Test methods used.

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complex as the likely source of the problem. The next step was to contact the property manager and maintenance supervisor for information and assistance. At this point, Annette Freihon, Special Agent with the FBI was called in to provide assistance in the investigation and enforcement of the Federal Clean Water Act provisions against illegal dumping.

In order to make a case, evidence had to be gathered and properly handled under a legal chain of custody. And there was plenty of evidence. Joe's presentation showed photographs of boxes of empty 1-quart oil containers and used oil filters in the suspect's van and surrounding area. A search of DMV records led the team to the owners of the van and gave them information about the oil change business. The investigation team expanded to include Los Angeles County Fire Department's Health HazMat investigation unit, Cal EPA, and the U.S. Attorney's office.

After a period of surveillance and collection of further evidence, the FBI obtained a search warrant and Joe, Robert, Stan, and the FBI agents sat down to wait. They videotaped the suspect actually dumping the oil and moved in for an arrest. The suspect admitted to dumping oil about once a week for the previous 90 days because he could only take it to the oil recycling center in three-gallon batches and he didn't have time to make several trips. Of course, free oil recycling centers are for residents, not businesses, but apparently he felt it was more convenient and cost-effective to dump his waste in the flood control channel behind his apartment.

Joe's presentation drew a lot of interest from the attendees and there was a noticeable reaction to the slide showing the suspect's closing statement: "I don't like doing this. Unfortunately, it's a matter of convenience."

The suspect was convicted and sentenced to make restitution to be paid in \$50 monthly increments, attend a drug rehabilitation program, and submit to house arrest.

Without the determined efforts of the Flood Maintenance Underground Crew and Industrial Waste Inspector staff along with the team of law enforcement and other health and safety officials, this gentleman would probably still be dumping gallons of used motor oil into our flood control system every week. The case was developed and handled effectively at every turn and the conference attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn from the experience.

Remember, if you see anyone dumping into the storm drain system, call 1(888)CLEAN LA to report it. ❖

- ✓ Test detection limits.
- ✓ Date of testing.
- ✓ Copies of the laboratory QA/AC reports
- ✓ Copies of chain-of-custody forms. ✎

Q: You suggested that I compare my sampling analysis results with existing benchmark levels. Where can I find those values?

A: For many pollutants the USEPA benchmark levels are shown in the following table:

Parameters	Units	Acceptable Range
pH	pH units	6.0-9.0
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	<100.0
Specific Conductance	µmos/cm	<200.0
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	<110.0
Oil and Grease	mg/L	<15.0
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	<30.0
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	<120.0
Aluminum	mg/L	<0.75
Ammonia	mg/L	<19.0
Arsenic	mg/L	<0.16854
Cadmium	mg/L	<0.0159
Chloride	mg/L	<860.0
Copper	mg/L	<0.0636
Fluoride	mg/L	<1.8
Iron	mg/L	<1.0
Lead	mg/L	<0.0816
Nickel	mg/L	<1.417
Zinc	mg/L	<0.117

If you need to know the benchmark level for an additional parameter, please call our Storm Water Hotline, 213-576-6753. ✎

Q: What do I need to do if my storm water sample data exceed the benchmark levels?

A: Conduct a thorough site inspection of your facility to determine the sources of pollutants. Pay attention to each activity and areas designated for these activities. Once you've identified the sources, institute appropriate Best Management Practices to reduce or eliminate pollutants in storm water. ✎

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Annual Report Mailing



Q: *How can I be sure that a document I send to the Regional Board is processed quickly?*

A: There are five steps to ensuring that your documents are processed as quickly as possible:

1. Include your WDID number. This is your Waste Discharge Identification number that was assigned to you when you obtained permit coverage. The number begins with 4_19S for Los Angeles County or 4_56S for Ventura County.
2. Do not send multiple documents together, especially if they are for different facilities.
3. Fill out forms completely and be sure they are signed.
4. Staple large documents, like the annual report. Binding is not necessary.
5. Send forms to the right place. State Board (Sacramento) accepts annual fee payments and Notice of Intent. Regional Board (Los Angeles) accepts Notice of Termination, Annual Report, No Exposure Certificate and Sampling and Analysis Reduction Certification. ✎

Q: *Do I need proof of mailing my Annual Report?*

A: This is a good protection for you, and should be considered. Proof of mailing includes: certified mail or hand delivery of two copies (both will be date stamped by the RWQCB, and one handed back to you). ✎

Documents and Records



Q: *Should I keep copies of Annual Reports, employee training records, laboratory reports, spill and leak records and other documents related to the General Permit?*

A: Yes. You are required to retain all records of storm water monitoring for a period of five years from the date of sample, measurement, observation or report. All records are public documents and must be provided to the Regional Board upon request. ✎

Q: *Where can I find copies of Storm Water documents?*

A: Storm water documents are available for download on our website at: www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/programs/stormwater/sw_industrial.html. Available documents include the General Permit, Notice of Intent, Annual Report, Notice of Termination application, Sampling and Analysis Reduction Certificate, and No Exposure Certificate. Our website also

contains links to other Storm Water information. You can also fax a written request to 213-576-5777, or call the Storm Water Hotline at 213-576-6753. ✎

Q: *How can I get a copy of an earlier Storm Report?*

A: Please visit our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/programs/stormwater/sw_news.html or call our Storm Water Hotline and leave your fax number or address. ✎



ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE SITE COMPLIANCE EVALUATION

By RoseLynn Wright

Environmental Scientist

At least once per year, all facility operators must complete an evaluation of their site and document this evaluation in a report.

The site evaluation must include:

- 1) Review of visual observation records
- 2) Review of inspection records
- 3) Review of sampling results
- 4) Visual inspection of all potential pollutants
- 5) Review and evaluation of all BMPs.

The evaluation report must include:

- 1) Identification of personnel performing the evaluation
- 2) Date(s) of the evaluation
- 3) SWPPP revisions
- 4) Areas of non-compliance and the corrective actions taken
- 5) Certification of compliance with the general permit.

Each evaluation report must be signed and certified in accordance with Section C.9 and C.10 of the General Permit. All revisions to the SWPPP must be implemented within 90 days of the site evaluation. The report must be kept for at least five years, and each year a summary of the report is reported to the Regional Board in the Annual Report.

For further details, please see sections A.9 and B.14 of the General Permit. ❖

Annual Report Enforcement

By Yi Lu

Senior Engineering Geologist

State Legislation AB 2019, passed in 1998, specifies mandatory penalties for violation of the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities Excluding Construction Activities (the Permit). The legislation directs Regional Boards to take enforcement actions (assess penalties) against permittees who fail to submit their annual reports on time, following proper identification and notification efforts. The minimum penalties, as described in section 13399.33 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, are \$1000 per year of violation.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LA-RWQCB) in the past several years has been aggressively taking enforcement actions against permittees with delinquent annual reports. For fiscal year 1998/99 delinquent annual reports, four Administrative Civil Liabilities (ACLs) were issued and a total of \$15,910 penalties were assessed. For 1999/00 delinquent annual reports, 15 ACLs were issued and a total of \$43,050 penalties were assessed. Issuance of ACLs for 2000/01 delinquent annual reports is undergoing.

To avoid fines, turn in your annual report each year by July 1st. You may also want to consider keeping proof of sending your annual report to the Regional Board. Proof of mailing includes, sending your annual report via certified mail or hand delivery of two copies (both will be date stamped by the LA-RWQCB and one handed back to you). ♦

Workshop

Industrial/Commercial Inspections

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board will conduct a workshop on Industrial and Commercial inspections on June 17, 2002 for municipal officials and interested persons. This workshop will provide regulatory information and describe field experience at industrial and commercial sites. For more information and a tentative agenda, please visit our website at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/meetings.html> or call Patricia Garcia at 213-576-6802. ♦

STORM WATER CONTACTS

STATE BOARD'S WEBSITE

www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html

REGIONAL BOARD'S WEBSITE

www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/programs/stormwater/stormwater.html

STATE BOARD PHONE NUMBER

916-341-5536

REGIONAL BOARD PHONE NUMBERS

REGIONAL BOARD MAIN LINE: 213-576-6600

STORM WATER HOTLINE: 213-576-6753

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Jeff Mack: 213-620-2121

Ivar Ridgeway: 213-620-2150

RoseLynn Wright: 213-620-2219

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Lilia Martinez: 213-620-2024

Dan Radulescu: 213-620-2038

Carlos Urrunaga: 213-620-2083

Michael Yang: 213-620-2093

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Alex Alimohammadi: 213-620-2225

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Enrique Loera: 213-620-2098

Tracy Woods: 213-620-2095

Matt Yeager: 213-620-2097

EMPLEADOS QUE HABLAN ESPAÑOL

Enrique Loera: 213-620-2098

Lilia Martinez: 213-620-2024

STATE BOARD ADDRESS

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

Attn: Storm Water Permitting Unit

P. O. Box 1977

Sacramento, CA 95812-1977

REGIONAL BOARD ADDRESS

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Storm Water Section


320 West 4th Street, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90013

REGIONAL BOARD FACSIMILE

213-576-5777

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Storm Report

A Guidance Newsletter
for Industrial Storm Water
Permittees

Brought to you by the
Los Angeles Regional
Water Quality Control Board

Storm Report – Storm Water Section
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED